PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : I move for a grant of Rs. 19,000 composed of the following three items :

(i) Construction of quarters for the Commissioner, Devicolam Rs. 10,000.

(ii) Construction of a new building for the Kumarakam Nelpura Cutcherry Rs. 3,500.

(iii) Restoration of the Alleppy-Aroor road Rs. 5,500.

In regard to the first item, the conversion of the Commissioner's bungalow into a Palace was sanctioned late last year ; the work was started and is now in progress A sum of Rs. 15,000 for providing quarters for the Commissioner, Devicolam, was sanctiond last month. As there is no provision for this in the budget for the current year, I move for a grant of Rs. 10,000 to meet the expenditure this year.

In regard to the second item, Government accorded administrative sanction in 1112 ; and, as the work was urgent, an additional allotment was also sanctioned to be provided for in the budget for the year. But the site for the building was not transferred to the P. W. D. until towards the end of the year ; as such it was not possible to spend, during that year, the whole of the fund sanctioned for that year. Only a sum of Rs. 407 was expended. And, no allotment was made in the budget for the current year, as, actually, the work was expected to be completed in 1112 itself. By the time the sanction for the work was received, the budget had already gone to Government.

Regarding the Alleppey-Aroor road, the condition of that road became very bad towards the latter part of last year, and gave room for frequent complaint. Government therefore made up its mind to sanction a special estimate for putting the road in order, and an additional grant was made in the budget for 1112. But since it was late in the year it was not possible to do the whole of the work before the end of last year, and a balance of the allotment was left unspent. Only half of the provision was actually spent last year. The work is in good progress; but the provision in the budget for the current year is not sufficient for the completion of the work. Hence this demand.

The demand was put to vote and carried. The grant was made.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. James Simpson : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 4,827 under the following heads :

(i) Entertainment of a specialist in tubercular diseases—Rs. 900.

(ii) Opening of an out-patient dispensary on the eastern side of the Alleppey town—Rs. 3,927.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Pr. James Simpson.]

Sir, at the outset I shall deal with the first item. As the House is aware we have a provision from the King George V. Jubilee fund to build a tuberculosis hospital and its site has been acquired. In January 1935 one of the senior acting Assistant Surgeons offered his services to proceed to Europe and specialise in the treatment of tuberculosis. This he has done and he has returned. Government at that time gave him an undertaking that on his return from training he would be entertained as an Assistant Surgeon on Rs. 150 in the tuberculosis hospital. His services have not yet been utilised as the hospital is not yet ready. Therefore a separate clinic at the General Hospital is proposed to be established as soon as this House grants this amount.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: For how many months the grant is asked for?

Mr. James Simpson: An amount of Rs. 900 is asked for at Rs. 150 per mensem for 6 months.

Now I come to the second item. It has long been felt by the department and the Government that the District Hospital at Alleppey which is situated on the western extremity of the town does not properly serve the needs of the people of the whole town. Moreover the major part of the population dwell on the eastern part of the town. Therefore a dispensary is proposed to be established on the eastern part of the town. For that purpose a sum of Rs. 3,927 is asked for for meeting the expenses on account of salary of the staff and the two Sub-Assistant Surgeons—one female and the other male.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla* cum *Pattanamthitta*): Are there not private medical practitioners in Alleppey to do the work?

Mr. James Simpson: Yes, there are.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: In view of that fact what is the necessity for the opening of Government dispensary?

Mr. James Simpson: I do not think that these medical practitioners will be able to serve all the people including the poor properly.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: Is it a good policy for Government to open dispensaries in towns where the need can be met by private practitioners while in the villages the need is greater.

Mr. James Simpson: That may be true. But the present need for a dispensary on the eastern side of the Alleppey town has to be met. The policy of Government as I have tried to enunciate is to distribute the establishment of hospitals impartially so far as the major towns of the State are concerned and develop

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

such. In any case, Sir, a dispensary on the eastern side of the town of Alleppey will be of great benefit to the people of that town and so I trust that the House will grant the amount asked for to meet the expenses in connection with that.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിന്റെ രണ്ടാമത്തെ ഭാഗത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

President: In the first place the honourable member must be heard and if possible he will speak in English so that Dr. Simpson may understand him or, otherwise, his speech has to be translated to him.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: ആലപ്പുഴ പട്ടണത്തിൽ ഒരു ഹാസ്പ്പിറൽ റൌണിന്റെ ഒരുഭാഗത്തു് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ റൌണിൽതന്നെ വേറെ ഒരു ഡിസ്പൻസറിക്കൂടി തുറക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു് അനാവശ്യമായ വ്യയമെന്നുമാത്രമേ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ആലപ്പുഴ റൌണിൽ, കാർ, ബസ്, റക്ഷാ മുതലായ സഞ്ചാരസൌകര്യപ്രദമായ വാഹനങ്ങളും ധാരാളമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് റൌണിന്റെ കഴക്കുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ആശുപത്രി സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതായ പടിഞ്ഞാറുഭാഗത്തുപോകാൻ വളരെ സൌകര്യമുണ്ടു. ഇതിനുപുറമെ ആലപ്പുഴറൌണിൽ എം. ബി. ബി. എസ്., എൽ. എം. പി. മുതലായ പരീക്ഷകളും പാസായിട്ടുള്ള പ്രൈവറ് മെഡിക്കൽ പ്രാക്ടീഷണർസ് ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. അവക്കു് ഒരു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുത്തു് സഹായിച്ചാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വലിയ ചെലവുകൂടാതെ കഴിക്കുന്നതിനും പുറമേ മെഡിക്കൽ പ്രാക്ടീഷണർസിനു ഒരു പ്രോത്സാഹനം കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യും. ഇതു സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെങ്കിൽ റൌണിന്റെ പടിഞ്ഞാറേ ഭാഗത്തു് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന ഹാസ്പ്പിറലിനെ റൌണിന്റെ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തു എല്ലാവക്കും സൌകര്യപ്രദമായ ഒരു സ്ഥാനത്തു സ്ഥാപിച്ചാലും മതി. അല്ലാതെ വേറൊരു ഡിസ്പൻസറി തുറക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും — ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ — ആശുപത്രികളും ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഒരു ആശുപത്രിയുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തു ഒന്നുകൂടി കൊടുക്കുന്ന നയം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I support the demand. My honourable friend Mr. Narayana Pillai has been speaking about the necessity of patronising private practitioners. Certainly I agree with him. But the real question here is not one of patronising private practitioners but it is one concerning the health of the people. I ask my honourable friend whether the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

private practitioners would be serving the poorer classes of people better by dispensing medicines to them free of cost. As far as I am aware, one of the leading private practitioners in the town was behind a memorial signed by prominent citizens of the town which was sent to Government praying for a dispensary being opened in the eastern part of the town.

This new dispensary which is going to be opened should not be considered as a separate one. It is only an enlargement of the existing institution, the District Hospital. There is a proposal now to acquire a site adjacent to the District Hospital at Alleppey for the purpose of constructing a maternity ward and the dispensary is only an out-patient department of the Hospital. It will be as good as bifurcating the functions of the District Hospital. Sir, Alleppey is a town in which we have a large number of poor people mostly of the labouring classes. Therefore it is certainly the duty of the Government to make medical aid available to the poorest man in Alleppey. And this proposal to open a dispensary in the eastern part of the town will not only be helping the people of the town but also those who live in the suburbs—those isolated isles situated in Kuttanad. It is not only from the point of view of the benefit that is to be conferred on the people of Alleppey but also from the point of view of the benefit that will go to those who are living in the suburbs that I support the demand before the House.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: Sir, I support the demand. As has been already remarked, by many honourable members I may say that Alleppey is one of the most congested towns in Travancore. People from different parts of the State go to Alleppey for business purposes. Over and above the population of the town more than 30,000, people who are living in the suburbs are employed in the factories in the town There have been repeated demands from the people of Alleppey at the present hospital is not equal to the need. In this connection I may state that it may not be in any way prejudicial to the establishment of a maternity hospital also in Alleppey. The District Hospital is situated on the beach. The present dispensary is proposed to be established on the eastern side along the back water side. From there to the beach the distance is not less than three miles. There may be cars and rickshaws available for taking the patients from one end of the town to the other but may I ask how the poor people can take advantage of these? In my opinion, I may state that two or more dispensaries are also necessary. Therefore I may appeal to the House that there is a real necessity for a dispensary at Alleppey on the eastern side of the town. With these words I support the demand.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: The question is not whether the poor people of Alleppey get medical aid. For that matter, there are poor people all over Travancore. But the policy of the Government should be that they should serve the poor people where their need is greatest. There are many places in Kuttanad where private medical practitioners are not available and the people there cannot get proper medical men to attend to their needs unless they spend money and go 10 to 15 miles away to reach a hospital or a physician. The present question is one of policy of the Government. There are a considerable number of medical men in the country—young men who have come out from their medical colleges. Some encouragement should be given to these young men.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: May I know whether there are not places where private practitioners are even ousted by departmental medical men?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, on a point of order. May I know whether it is regular to discuss the policy of Government on a motion for a supplementary grant?

President: No. But it is open to the honourable member to speak on the policy of the Government adducing it as an argument for not granting an extra dispensary to Alleppey.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: Sir, therefore, my point is on the basis of what ought to be the policy of Government. With these words I oppose the motion.

Mr. James Simpson: Sir, this question of grant to private practitioners has, I can assure the House, engaged the attention of Government and it is under their consideration. But the difficulty is in point of money. What I ask is, are the people going to be satisfied if Government subsidise these private practitioners, as far as their needs are concerned? I am doubtful of that point. Will any medical practitioner be able to give medicines and treatment free if he is subsidised by Government by giving him Rs. 20 or 30 per month?

But coming to the demand before the House I may assure the honourble House that the proposal does not stop with this demand but it is the intention of Government to establish maternity and child welfare wards in the District Hospital at Alleppey. The grant is asked for what is considered to be an urgent necessity in Alleppey. As pointed out, it is not only the people of Alleppey that will be benefited by this grant. There is a large moving population in Alleppey who will also be served by this dispensary.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,100 under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. The purpose of this grant is to pay rent for the building hired for holding the office of the Curator for the publication of Oriental Manuscripts and to meet certain contingent charges of his office

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know when the building was hired ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr.N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I shall explain it presently.

The office of the Curator was being held in a small building for which a rent of Rs. 25 was being paid. In Edavom last year, Government sanctioned some additional hands for the preparation of a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Curator's office with a view to make the catalogue available to the delegates who attend the forthcoming Oriental Conference in December. This additional staff was sanctioned in Edavom 1112, and the Curator pressed for a bigger building as the building in which his office was being held was too small even for the old staff. It became practically impossible for him to continue to hold his office in the old building. Government considered his request and decided to hire a bigger building.

I know why Mr. Kesavan Nair put a question to me. By the time it was decided to hire a new building the budget had already been prepared and the preliminary edition had gone to the press. It was too late to include provision for the rent for a bigger building in the budget of the current year.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Was not a demand made for the preparation of the descriptive catalogue while the budget of the current year was considered ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes, Sir. But Government thought that it would be possible for the Curator to continue to hold his office in the old building even after the additional hands were entertained. But by experience the Curator found that it would be impossible for him to hold office in a small building. Hence a bigger building had to be hired. The rent for this building is Rs. 80 per mensem. Originally it was the idea to accommodate two offices in this building, the Curator's office in the ground floor and the Economic Development Board in the first floor. Subsequently the Economic Development Board was accommodated in the office of the Land Revenue Commissioner who is the President of the Board. Thus the first floor was available and Dr. Cousins, who is on the University staff, took this portion of the building for his residence. Government are recovering

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly